

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/993,536

Examiner

Thomas Duong

Applicant(s)

KINNEY ET AL.

Art Unit

2145

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to October 31, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-29.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JASON CARDONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Response to Arguments

2. The Applicants' arguments and amendments filed on October 31, 2005 have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. *Claims 1-29* are allowed. The claims indicated include limitations that the prior arts of record do not appear to teach or render obvious, hence they are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
As presented in the previous office action, Baker (US006732191B1) discloses,
 - *using "Web interface [to provide] access to the input/output device backplane by a user at a remote location through the Internet. The interface translates the industry standard Ethernet, TCP/IP and HTTP protocols used on the Internet into data recognizable to the input/output device. Using this interface, the user can retrieve all pertinent data regarding the operation of the input/output device,*

including input/output device configuration, input/output status, operating statistics, diagnostics, and distributed input/output configurations" (Baker, col.3, lines 17-27). According to Baker, "it would be desirable to develop an automation control system whereby a user could use general purpose networks, such as the Internet and specialized industrial networks, [to provide direct connection] to input/output devices for remote monitoring and control of input/output modules or devices" (Baker, col.2, lines 55-59). In addition, Baker teaches that "the application protocol interface to the web browser is typically through the HTTP protocol using the HTML or JAVA language" (Baker, col.4, lines 14-16) and

Gretta (US005850523A) discloses,

- *monitoring a specific type of network called "a fieldbus network [which] comprises a plurality of digital devices and control/monitoring equipment that are integrated to provide I/O and control for automated processes" (Gretta, col.1, lines 19-22). According to Gretta, "communications between application processes in the field devices occurs through the application layer protocols, ... [which] is divided into two sublayers, an upper sublayer, defined by the Fieldbus Messaging Specification (FMS), that provides services to application processes, and a lower sublayer, known as the Fieldbus Access Sublayer (FAS), that maps FMS services onto the underlying capabilities of the data link layer" (Gretta, col.1, lines 59-65).*

However, the prior arts of record fail to teach or suggest individually or in combination as stated in the independent claims for

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- *"transmitting at least one signal from the remote host node to the local host node, wherein the at least one signal is constructed to cause the local host node to invoke execution of a servlet on the local host node, and further to cause the servlet to receive process data via a Foundation Fieldbus communication stack Fieldbus Messaging Specification layer from at least one of the plurality of process devices and to transmit the received process data to the remote host node via the wide area network and the applet"*

and in combination with other limitations as set forth in the independent claims.

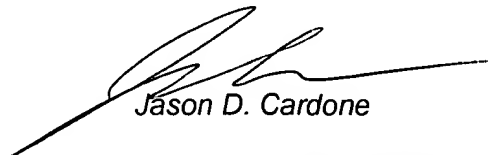
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Duong whose telephone number is 571/272-3911. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30AM - 4:00PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason D. Cardone can be reached on 571/272-3933. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571/273-8300 for regular communications and 571/273-8300 for After Final communications.

Thomas Duong (AU2145)

January 6, 2006


Jason D. Cardone
Supervisory PE (AU2145)